A

NARRATIVE

OF THE

Memorable Case &c.

OF

Seignor *Capitano Masseo.*

Egregious Quackery Diſplay'd

OR, A

NARRATIVE

OF

The late memorable Caſe

OF

Seignor *Capitano Maſſeo.*

Written in *Spaniſh*,

By *Don Ferdinando Scarificato Sangreſugeo*,

Surgeon in Ordinary to his Catholic Majeſty.

And Tranſlated into *Engliſh* by a faithful Hand.

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A

NARRATIVE

Of the memorable Caſe, &c.

SEIGNOR MASSEO, the Subject of the following Narrative, was a Gentleman poſſeſs'd of many good and popular Talents; and, having a peculiar Genius for Traffick, fix'd his Reſidence for a number of Years in one of the greateſt trading Ports of all the Spaniſh Monarchy: from whence he made ſeveral Voyages to the Philippine Iſlands in quality of Captain. By this means he acquired Wealth enough to have render'd a Man leſs beloved and eſteem'd than himſelf the Envy of his Neighbours. But whatever Gifts of Fortune or Endowments of Mind he was bleſs'd with, he could not ward off a moſt ſevere Stroke,

Fate had in reſerve for him; being in about the Eight and Fortieth Year of his Age ſeized with a *Spina Ventoſa*, or White Swelling, in his Elbow.

At this Time flouriſh'd at *Madrid*, loaded with accumulated Phyſical Honours and Atchievements, *Don Ricardo De Prato*, Archiater to the King of *Spain*: who, by his profound Erudition, and ſage Medical and Philoſophical Productions, had raiſed himſelf to a higher Pitch of Reputation, than any of even his moſt illuſtrious Predeceſſors, ſince the Days of *Hippocrates*. He treated of the Influence of the Sun and Moon, wrote of Poiſons, handled Variolous and even Peſtilential Diſorders with inconceivable Accuracy; and, in caſe he ſhould ſurvive long enough to go thro' ſuch an elaborate Work, was meditating a Tract on the Diſeaſes mention'd in the Sacred Records. And, ſurpriſing! Moſt of his Pieces he penn'd not in his native *Spaniſh*, but in the flowing Stile of a truly *Roman* Orator. To this renown'd Perſonage it

was

was very natural for *Seignor Maſſeo* to have recourſe, in his calamitous Situation, for Relief. Accordingly, on his reſpectful Application, and premeditated Cavalier-like Donation, (the Life and Soul of the Practice of Phyſick) *Don Ricardo* preſcribes away, directs whole Cargoes from *De Lingo*'s Shop, and, to do him Juſtice, leaves no Medicinal Stone unturn'd, in order to render his Patient Service. But as Experience in all Ages has ſufficiently convinced Mankind, that there is no ſuch Thing as abſolute Infallibility entail'd on even the moſt ſagacious Doctors, all the Don's moſt powerful Efforts proved no manner of Match for the inveterate and confirm'd Obſtinacy of the Malady. That ſtill prevail'd, harraſs'd the Patient, and perplex'd *De Prato*. At length, either thro' a Caprice familiar enough to ſick Perſons, or that the Don was willing to waſh his hands of ſuch eluſive baffling Work, he was relieved from his fruitleſs Care of *Seignor Maſſeo*: and Remedies were now to be ſought for from the moſt extraordinary

Man

Man of the Age, one *Guardo*: who, from being a Fugitive from *Spain* for rebellious Practices, and afterwards a Priſoner in the *Baſtile* at *Paris* for ſome Reaſon, I preſume, or other, in the Revolution of a few Years had it in his Power to return again to the Capital of that Kingdom, furniſh'd with incomparable Phyſical Secrets, whoſe Virtues were ever, and are at this Day, impenetrable to the whole World. Being a Man of no Learning, tho' of ſufficient Common Senſe and low Cunning, he meets with ſome Rubs, that fret him; tho' not a great deal. For as he finds a very comfortable Return for the Medicines he is daily diſpenſing, that Conſideration inſtantly ſmooths the ruffled Surface of his Mind, and re-eſtabliſhes the perfecteſt Tranquillity imaginable. So that, as he drives thro' the Streets, he ſeems as ſerene and compoſed, as the moſt letter'd and philoſophical Leech of 'em all. Well then, this ſignalized Adept falls in earneſt to work, plies his new Patient fore and aft with Pills, Drops, *&c.* that made

made him ſtare again ; till, on the upſhot of the Matter, he being no longer able to run this terribly-unmerciful Gauntlet, *Signor Guardo* was deſired to beſtow his Doſes elſewhere, and to ſave himſelf the Trouble of calling any more at thoſe Lodgings. During the Tranſaction of theſe Matters, the Fame of Young *Piſtorio* had reach'd the Ears of the labouring oppreſs'd *Maſſeo*. *Piſtorio* was extremely well verſed in his Profeſſion of Surgery ; which he adorn'd with great Politeneſs of Manners no leſs than a liberal Education. With theſe Advantages he viſited *Seignor Maſſeo*, gain'd on his Eſteem and Confidence, and inſpired him with warm Hopes of a happy Iſſue : and, to confirm thoſe Hopes, Don *Allemanno*, a Phyſician of no little Experience, was deſired to lend his preſcriptive Aſſiſtance. *Allemanno* was too penetrating not to pronounce it an incurable Caſe, intimating as much to *Seignor Piſtorio* ; the Reſult of which was the Calling in another eminent Chirurgical Hand. The Gentleman pitch'd upon was the Celebrated *Cæſario Falconizo*,

Falconizo, who, from the Mildneſs of his Temper, and ſignal Skill in his Buſineſs, was deſervedly the Darling of all Ranks of People in *Madrid*.

The Moon had now fill'd Half her Orb, ſince the joint Attendance of theſe Sages; who, from the dangerous Circumſtances of the Complaint, judged it abſolutely neceſſary, for the Preſervation of Life, to cut off the Limb; eſpecially as the Patient was in Strength and good Spirits. Nature no doubt is ever reluctant to Operations of this Kind: ſo that it was no ways aſtoniſhing, that *Seignor Maſſeo* for ſome time turn'd a deaf Ear to this Propoſal, and was even under terrible Agonies at the Thoughts of it. However, being at long run perſuaded rather to part with a Member, than to loſe his Life, he reſolved to have the Amputation perform'd the next Day by one o'Clock. Conſequently to this Determination, the Gentlemen concern'd met at the appointed Hour; and, to their great Surprize, were told, that *Guardo* was once more to

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have the Management of *Seignor Maſſeo* and that he had made the Seignor magnificent Promiſes of accompliſhing a Cure in a trice. And, indeed, ſo ſanguine and elevated was this magiſterial Empiric, and ſo cock-ſure of reſtoring poor *Maſſeo*, that finding him, by ſome unaccountable Accident, every now and then a little eaſier than ordinary, he perfectly triumph'd: and carried him in his own ſplendid Car to ſome noted Villas not far diſtant from the Capital, as a glaring Inſtance of the prodigious Efficacy of his peculiar Compoſitions. But alas! this little Sunſhine was but extreamly ſhort-lived: the Horizon was ſoon again overcaſt, and all the pleaſing, flattering, Scene entirely reverſt. *Maſſeo* now labour'd under a violent Looſeneſs, and profuſe Sweats, and his Spirits of courſe where juſt on the point of being exhauſted. Then, and not till then, he began to think juſtly of the Treatment he had undergone; and regretted exceedingly his having been ſo credulous, as to be caught by the ſoothing Artifices and Deluſions of One, whom Nature, he was made too

ſadly ſenſible of, had no ways cut out for ſanative Purpoſes: eſteeming it infinitely more eligible, if he muſt fall, to have fallen by the Hand of *Don Ricardo De Prato*; or, if he was fated at this Period of Life to viſit the Shades, to have had his Paſſport to thoſe Shades ſign'd at leaſt by the Pen of *Don Allemanno*, than thus to ſink moſt palpably and moſt inglorioufly a Victim to downright Imp--d- nce and Ign--r--nce. "He cure "me? Yes! I ſhall ſoon be cured, on "the Eve as I am of being diſpatch'd to "where no Pills, Drops, *&c.* I thank "my Stars, or *Spina Ventoſa*, can ever "have Acceſs".

Don Guardo, whoſe Name was now become execrably hateful to *Seignor Maſſeo*, and to all his Acquaintance, was thenceforth diſmiſs'd with an Indignity ſuitable to the provoking Occaſion. But what could avail all the Indignity in the Univerſe? The Seignor's colliquative Looſeneſs and immoderate Sweats ſtill continued. Wherefore, finding himſelf in a drowning Condition, he reſolved to catch at the formerly-propoſed Twig of Amputation:

Amputation: which then, while he was in Strength and Spirits, might have poſſibly afforded him a Chance of eſcaping the Danger that threaten'd him.

At this Juncture an officious Viſit was made him by *Antihectico Poterio*: who, aſſiſted by *Cavaliero Norſario*, had, to his immortal Honour, the Courage, even in this deplored Condition of *Maſſeo*, to make an Amputation. —— *Quid non mortalia pectora cogis Auri ſacra fames?* —— An Enterprize the more glorious, as it was altogether new and unprecedented. Its a By-Law in *Spain* among the Confraternity of Surgeons, that no Amputation is to be perform'd but in the Preſence of one at leaſt of the Seniors of the *Fraternitate*. Inſtead of complying with this ſettled Order, or even calling in the Surgeons before conſulted, *Poterio* introduces *Norſario*, whoſe Creature he had for ſome time conſecrated himſelf. And thus was the Matter tranſacted without any Demurr or farther Ceremony. The Seignor notwithſtanding ſurvived almoſt two whole days longer: when, giving up the Ghoſt, he became

became the general Converſation of all *Madrid*, and will probably continue the popular Theme, till ſome equally extraordinary Event ſhall hap'ly determine the public Attention and Admiration to a freſh Object.

How this Act will ſtand recorded in our future Annals, I cannot pretend to ſay. However, it will carry at leaſt this Advantage along with it, that it was ſo far approved of by the greateſt Man in *Spain*, either in reſpect of the particular Province he ſhone in of *Lithotomy*, or the uncommon Figure he cut in the delicate and ornamental Science of *Architecture*, *Don palladio De Seldeno*, that this renown'd Artiſt *(Credetis? Jo! credite Poſteri!)* in the Abſence of *Peterio*, condeſcended to become that hardy Operator's officious Subſtitute, eſteeming it, 'tis ſuppoſed, a real Poſt of Honour. I by no means mention this ridiculous Circumſtance with a View of depretiating in the minuteſt Manner *Don De Seldeno*: it being the commoneſt Thing in the world for Men once of Name and Eminence to dwindle inſenſibly, without being

being conſcious of it, into the meereſt fiddle-faddle old Women in nature.

How otherwiſe could *Seignor Tibaldi* of *Parma*, a Man of Shrewdneſs and Penetration enough of all conſcience, and one, as all *Italy* knows, who can write either an Invective very genteelly, or a Panegyric, degenerate to ſuch a degree, as, tho' there is ever a ſufficient Supply of Matter in this buſtling City of *Madrid* for ſuch Topics, to be ſo forgetful of his former Glory, as, inſtead of exerciſing his known Talents on Subjects of thoſe pleaſing Kinds, to teach Children the Alphabet? But Virility in him being ſunk into a perfect Anility, he, like the general Run of the antiquated Female Part of our Species, is grown fond of Children. The Reaſon he himſelf aſſigns for this manifeſtly ſenile Conduct.

Or how could *Don Tomaſo De Camino*, Secretary to the King's Firſt Phyſician, ruſh thro' that Don's Apartments, like a Torrent, till he had pour'd himſelf into the Street, on hearing an Outcry before the Door, in order to part a Couple of his Countrymen; who, he could not

but

but know, would as ſoon be d--mn'd as fight; and make them the following pathetic Harangue.

'I am extremely chagrined, Gentle-
'men, to be after finding you both now
'in ſuch an hoſtile Diſpoſition of Mind.
'Do you conſider how inglorious it is for
'Men of your diſtinguiſh'd Character to
'be blacking and blueing and bruiſing
'one another, as if Unguents and Plaſ-
'ters in *Spain* coſt Nothing? You are
'not now in the County of *Tipperary*,
'but in one of the principal Streets of
'*Madrid*: where you will in an Inſtant
'be ſurrounded with a hundred Specta-
'tors of this your clamourous Contenti-
'on. Tho' Chocolate in a Morning,
'particularly *Don de Prato*'s Chocolate,
'whoſe Levee you are this moment re-
'tired from, be a very good Thing, yet,
'take my word, the Don's Chocolate
'will be reſerved for the future for Per-
'ſons of a more pacific Temper of Soul.
'Wherefore do you, Seignor *P——i*, and
'Seignor *B——o*, do you, and Each of
'you, calmly and ſeparately retreat to
'to your reſpective Habitations: where

'I will be after ſeeing you to morrow
'morning, e'er well the Sun ſhall gild the
'ſacred Day, and prevent, to the utmoſt
'of my Power, the Effuſion of what,
'when once by whatever Accident let
'out, is paſt mortal Skill to reſtore a-
'gain to the Veins".

Thus endeth the *Spaniſh* Narrative: which having not at all touch'd on the Character of *Cavaliero Norſario*, it may not, perhaps, be un-amuſing to my Readers, if I annex a ſhort Detail of his Hiſtory, as I received it from a *Catalonian* Gentleman lately arrived from *Barcelona*. Seignor *Norſario*, ſaid *Don Vento Spinoſa*, (for that was the Cavalier's Name) is a Man of Parts and Capacity ſufficient to make any one conſpicuous not only in that of Surgery, but in any Profeſſion: and, as far as ever I heard, has had an Education proportionable to the Hopes his Parents early conceived of him. As he had devoted a Circle of ſeven entire Years to the fathoming the Myſtery of his reſpectful Calling in *Madrid*; ſo was he determined, at the Expiration of that Time, to work his Way to Eminence in

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it in the moſt direct and ſpeedieſt Manner he could in the ſame grand Metropolis.

This Reſolution no doubt was a very commendable one, and the Reſult of Principles truly generous and noble. And and what pity it is, continued *Don Spinoſa*, that ſo deſirable a Thing, as a large Share of native Vivacity, ſhould turn out a fatal Obſtacle to ſo gloriouſly-intended a Career: as it evidently did in him. For, being endued with this active Property even to a Degree of Pertneſs, it ſoon put ſuch an ugly Spoke in his main Wheel, that he travell'd on very ſlowly in the radiant Road to Fame. Nor was That all. But this predominant Ingredient in his Compoſition had once upon a time like to have coſt him the Breaking of all his Bones. For, having ſo far tranſcended the Bounds of Decency, and the eternally eſtabliſh'd Maxims of *Madrid*, as to take upon him groſſly to cenſure the Practice of a firſt-rate Phyſician; the Doctor, fired at the Inſolence with unquenchable Reſentment, furniſh'd himſelf incontinently with a rugged Sort of Material,

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(the ruggedeſt that could be purchaſed with Money) not much unlike an Engliſh Cudgel, and laid it on indiſcriminately on any Part of this bold Aſperſer that beſt preſented itſelf ſo unmercifully, that Fame ſays, it was the compleateſt Baſtinado, that was ever ſeen in *Madrid*, either in this, or, indeed, in any other Age. And tho' ſome Years are elapſed ſince this untoward Diſaſter, yet the Memory of it is ſtill as freſh, as if the complicated Knocks had been dealt but yeſterday. And what, added the Don, is very ſurpriſing, all this unexampled Drubbing (for *Norſario* is ſtrangely patient of Baſting) did not gaul him half ſo much, as that this bruiſing Buſineſs was unfortunately tranſacted in the Preſence of Several of the moſt conſiderable Perſons of the Faculty ; who were Eye-witneſſes of his odd, unaccountable, Grimaces, and the uncouth, prepoſterous, Attitudes, the labour'd Banging forced him ſucceſſively to ſhift himſelf into, in order to elude, if chance he any way could, the thick-reduplicated Strokes, monſtrouſly-ſounding Thwacks,

of the high-uplifted and heavy-deſcending Oaken Implement. A Man, diveſted of Prejudices, would have imagin'd, that ſuch a ſhameful, ſcandalous, Chaſtiſement would have put *Norſario* on an immediate ſignal, worthy, Spaniſh Act of Revenge. But, being by Nature inſurmountably puſillanimous, he meditated no Return of this rough Uſage by challenging his Antagoniſt to any heroic Feats at Arms, but contented himſelf with lodging a low groveling Complaint with the *Corregidor*, an Officer, Seignor, ſaid the Don, of the Juſticiary, you have ſufficiently heard of in *England*. —— The Event of the Proceſs Report delivers Nothing of; neither is it at all material towards forming any farther Idea of this unwarlike Chirurgical Spaniard.

F I N I S.